

## “Walking With God”

Genesis 5: 21-24; Micah 6: 6-8; Revelation 3:4

Sunday July 29, 2018

### Odd Newspaper Headlines

- Experts says police begin campaign to run down jaywalkers
- Miners refuse to work after death
- Juvenile Court to try shooting defendant
- Red tape holds up new bridge
- Astronaut takes blame for gas in spacecraft
- Man minus ear waives hearing

Let us pray?

Do you and I walk with God? Did I say that backwards? Should I be asking if God walks with you and me? After all, in Matthew 28 Jesus says that He will be with us always. In my high school years, people began to say that we needed to be sure and take Jesus with us. When we when off to college we needed to take Jesus with us and not leave him behind.

As we look at our Old Testament text we see a man named Enoch. This is not a man whom we may hear of often in a sermon. Yet, He is one of those great, great, great...grandsons of Adam and the great grandfather of Noah. He is different than all the rest. It says that Enoch walked with God. This walking with God began after his son was born. You may know his son better.

His first son was Methuselah. He is known for being the longest living man as recorded in the Bible. What does the name Methuselah? It means “sent by God.”

At that time, babies were named according to some aspect about how they were born or what the circumstances were in the life of the parents when the children arrived on earth. Enoch may have felt like that to a brand new dad, at the birth of their first child. Many a dad, when handed their first born child, has a tremendous sense of awe. Here is something, or that is someone who the nearest thing to innocence and perfection that he has ever seen. Often for dads, this miracle of life deepens their sense of the God in that holy moment.

Could that have been what happened to Enoch? At that moment he felt like God had sent this baby to him. Thus, confirming to Enoch the awesomeness of God.

The scripture says that Enoch walked with God for a long time. That was, until Enoch was no more because God took him.

Some of you have traced your family tree. You know how far back your name goes. In this section of the Bible, we have what some consider the most boring parts of the Bible. It is a listing of the genealogy of Adam’s family.

Generation after generation, it lists the first name of the person, how old they were when they had their first child, the names of the first child, and how long they lived. Each entry says that they died after so many years of life.

The strange thing about the entry about Enoch is that his entry says that God took Him and he was no more. Not that he died like all the rest but that he was taken by God.

In Enoch's case it resulted with a direct route to heaven. There is one other person who got the direct route to heaven. Do you know who he was? His name was Elijah. Elijah was taken up in a chariot of fire.

In my growing up I heard people say at the death of person that God took them. In my early college years I attended a funeral where the pastor said that God needed another flower in His heavenly garden and that why that person died.

I believe that some where in the past people have gotten these thing mixed up. Enoch is the only person in the Bible to have been taken by God. Elijah is the only one in the Bible intentionally left by fiery chariot ride.

The rest of people it says died. Jesus even died a physical human death.

Do you walk with God or does God walk with you? Micah 8: 6 tells us that God requires of His people to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God. Walking with God has the quality of humility. It seems to be connected with love, mercy, and executing justice.

Humility is about love. Some of you may ask if I have the definition wrong. Isn't humility about groveling in front of

others and thinking you are no good, and that others are better than you are?

Humility is about understanding your sacred worth to God. In other words, it is understanding how loved you are by God. It is appropriating that love of God for yourself. It is about see the sacred worth of others.

My sister along with some family, stopped in to visit for a little over 24 hours. My sister and I are 14 month apart. We have been competitive. We come from a competitive family. It seems that way all our lives. Now at this stage in life when we have all lived through hard stuff, competitiveness has changed it focus. I had to leave before she and the family left. When I got back there were notes laid about the house. They read something like this..."You've Got the best job in the world and you are the best person to do it." She also wrote "You have a beautiful place here" and "Peter is growing into an awesome young man." The one that meant the most is "Roswell is so lucky to have you."

To walk with God begins with knowing that you are loved by God and that you are of sacred worth to God. Humbly walking with God is recognizing that those around you are loved of God and that God asks you to love them.

To walk with God also means that you want justice meted out with mercy for the people and for yourself. If you are still of an age that you can serve on a jury, then do so. I have at times seen jury duty as something that got in the way of being a pastor. What if someone died? What if I had a funeral? Yet, I came to understand that God is about justice with mercy. So walking

with God means serving on the jury, taking time away from writing sermons, praying with people, and all the other things that pastors do, then that is walking with God for me.

When we look at Revelation 3: 1-4, we see the church which is at Sardis. Sardis is in western province of present day Turkey. Sardis is one of seven churches in the region that are having some struggles. On the outside to everyone else the Sardinians look like they are doing a fantastic job being the church.

Inside however, they are in trouble. Inwardly, they are not doing the deeds of compassion, caring for the needs of others in the world around them. They are not seeking justice, or confronting the evils of the day. They all knew Jesus loved them, but it stops there. They may love Jesus, but they are not walking with Him. It says that a few still walked with God.

In El Paso the United Methodist there are using Tobin Park UMC to house parents and families as they await reunion with their children. They have set up a lot of cots for people to sleep on, provided activities for the children from Vacation Bible School literature. They have been sharing the love of Jesus to people, especially to children.

Walking with God, whether we call Him Father, Son, or Holy Spirit means believing in Him, receiving His love and forgiveness, and being involved in lives of people who need healing, help, and hope.

As a child we took turns going to visit grandma and grandpa in Washington DC area. It was always fun. Grandma had a way of making us feel special. At one of those visits I remember

hearing a record that they had which had the song, "I'll Walk with God." It so touched me. I wanted to walk with God. The music fits the tremendous desire to walk with God. Will you hear that song now?